

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing apparatus for changing a layout of a character string and/or a drawing contained in image data, the apparatus comprising:

a first detection means for detecting a directive word, which is a character string that indicates a drawing position;

a second detection means for detecting a drawing whose position is indicated by the directive word;

a change means for changing a layout of the character string and/or the drawing position;

a recognition means for recognizing positional relation between the directive word and the drawing after a layout change; and

a replacing means for replacing the directive word based on the positional relation.

2. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the detection of the drawing by said second detection means is based on a direction the directive word is directing.

3. An image processing method for changing a layout of a character string and/or a drawing contained in image data, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a directive word, which is a character

string that indicates a drawing position;

(b) detecting a drawing whose position is indicated by the directive word;

(c) changing a layout of the character string and/or the drawing position;

(d) recognizing positional relation between the directive word and the drawing after a layout change; and

(e) replacing the directive word based on the positional relation.

4. An image processing method as claimed in claim 3, in which the detection of the drawing in said step (b) is based on a direction the directive word is directing.

5. A computer readable storage medium for storing a program for executing an image processing method for changing a layout of a character string and/or a drawing contained in image data, in which the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a directive word, which is a character string that indicates a drawing position;

(b) detecting a drawing whose position is indicated by the directive word;

(c) changing a layout of the character string and/or the drawing position;

(d) recognizing positional relation between the directive word and the drawing after a layout change; and

(e) replacing the directive word based on the positional relation.

6. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 5, in which the detection of the drawing in said step (b) is based on a direction the directive word is directing.